

## **The Expedition ANT-XXIX/3**

### **Weekly Reports**

[28 January 2013](#): On the way into the ice

[4 February 2013](#): Diverse catches, muddy sediment samples and first results of physical oceanography

### **Summary**

**January 20, 2013 - March 19, 2013**

**Punta Arenas - Punta Arenas**

Cruise leg ANT-XXIX/3 of R/V Polarstern will start 20 January 2013 in Punta Arenas (Chile) and end 19 March 2013 in Punta Arenas too. Two scientific projects will be carried out: The "Larsen Shelf Study of the Ocean" (LASSO) is a biological-oceanographic study in the shelf ice region east of the Antarctic Peninsula where the ice shelf has decreased significantly within the past decades. This survey is an integrative part of the new biology programme "Antarctic Thresholds - Ecosystem resilience and Adaptation (AnT-ERA) of the "Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research" (SCAR) and, thus, of specific interest as to research on climate change. Depending on the actual sea-ice conditions the function of the marine ecosystem in a changing environment – specific for the Antarctic - will be analysed. The biological main focus is aimed at communities living at the sea-floor. Further studies on plankton and a large-scale seal- and whale survey will be carried out. Within the study of physical oceanography, which is integrated in this project, differences in water masses and their interaction with the marine ecosystem will be investigated and it will be tried to identify assumed new areas of formation of deep bottom water, which contributes to the "ventilation" of all oceans. The second project is a krill and plankton survey in the outflow area of a big oceanic gyre in the north-western Weddell Sea. It is a contribution to the „Convention on the Conservation of Living Antarctic Resources“ (CCAMLR). Up till now only poor information is available on the populations of ecological key species, such as size and age distribution, growth, maturity, mortality and larval development.

### **Contact**

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